The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY • FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015 • VOLUME LIII NO. 27 • SINCE 1965

# Interview: Class of 2015 Commencement Speaker

**By Annie Hayes**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Photo from Jessica Miller

Jessica Miller and Advisor for the newspaper, Valerie Kasper, meet each other often throughout the week to discuss and plan the tasks of the newspaper.

Jessica Miller has come a long way from her humble beginnings in Pasco County to become the Class of 2015 Commencement Speaker.

Miller is an English major with dual specializations in Professional Writing and Advanced Literary Studies. Over the course of her four years at the University, she has been a member of the Epsilon Tau Chapter of the Tri-Sigma Sorority, President of the Alpha Alpha Alpha Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English International Honor Society, the Layout Editor and Editor-in-Chief of *The Lions' Pride Newspaper*.

While a rendition of Miller's life could merely tell the step-by-step parts of her story, only her own words could truly convey this remarkable success story to readers. Instead, below is an interview between Miller and myself.

**Where are you from originally?**

I was born at Zephyrhills, FL, and have lived either in Pasco County or close to it for my entire life. I consider myself to have been raised in Ridge Manor with my family, but I have lived all over Pasco and enjoy everything from the sponge docks in Tarpon Springs to the Pioneer Museum in Dade City.

**When did you realize you had a talent for writing?**

I would not really call it a talent for writing. I would say my gift lies in communication. I have always had fun writing and reciting speeches. The first speech I wrote was in fifth grade for the Pasco County Tropicana Speech Contest, where I wrote an essay on how amazing it is that the cold cereal industry has developed into a massive business, yet most people never think twice about it. The speech got me first place in my class and at my school. It was a big shock. I never thought it would amount to anything special since I was just having fun with it.

**What are your learning disabilities, and how have you overcome them?**

My learning disabilities include having short term memory loss and audio graphic dyslexia. These essentially mean that sounds and letters get displaced in my brain, so I will say things out of order, have trouble spelling or pronouncing words, and writing by hand takes me a long time. They aren't so bad though. Thanks to the technology we have accessible today, such as laptops, my disabilities barely hinder me.

It was tougher before college, since I could not use a laptop to take notes in middle or high school. I remember being really embarrassed because I would always get made fun of for my spelling and pronunciation, and I was the last one to ever turn in a test since hand writing is tough for me. It has been better in college since more people are open minded and considerate about my learning disabilities, and Mrs. Christine Georgallis of SLU Disabilities helps me out whenever I have a problem.

**When were you homeless, and how has this made you grow as a person?**

My mom and I were homeless for almost two years straight from 2008. The experience made me determined to change my life. Getting out of that situation is what made me go to the high school guidance counselor weekly asking for ways to get into college and to get scholarships to fund my education.

**How did you become homeless?**

My mom got hurt at work and then got laid off. Then we got evicted, and no one wanted to rent us a place because of my mom's injury. It did not matter that we had steady work, they thought we were too big a risk. It took us a year to find a landlord of a trailer who understood our situation and really helped us out. He was the best landlord we have ever had.

**In all the years I have known you, you have always been one of the most positive people I have ever known. What motivated you throughout this difficult time in your life?**

Thank you. That's really kind of you to say so. I just keep looking toward my goals and looking back on my life to compare how far I have come. By setting goals and keeping track of them, I can see how my efforts have come to create tangible and spiritual worth. Additionally, I try to do what makes me happy, and I try to make the people I care about happy as well.

**Who was your best teacher in high school, and how did he/she help you get to college?**

This is tough. I had a lot of favorite teachers throughout the years, but the most memorable is Julie Smith. She was an English teacher who is an all-around great person. She was the teacher who got me out of remedial classes. I have always struggled with time limits on tests because of my learning disability, and I would not do well since I did not have time to process everything. As a result, I would be put into remedial classes. She recognized my potential and got me put into advance placement and honors courses the next semester, where I not only did well, but for the first time, I really enjoyed my classes.

**What made you choose Saint Leo University?**

I loved the small class room sizes, the small campus community, the writing intensity of the courses, and the student resources.

**You have often said that Dr. Allyson Marino has been a mentor for you. Explain the relationship you two have.**

The entire English Department has been the most supportive group of people I have ever seen-especially Doctor Donald Pharr and Professor Valerie Kasper. I considered them as close as family. Dr. Marino in particular did for me what Julie Smith did in high school; she saw potential in me and guided me into doing things I really have grown from.

**What has been your best experience while working for "The Lions' Pride Newspaper?"**

Mentoring. There is nothing more rewarding than taking the work you have enjoyed doing, teaching it to other people, and watching them grow and succeed in ways you could never have imagine. I could not pick one specific moment I loved more than another, but mentoring staff and editors are memories I cherish.

**How has Sigma Tau Delta benefitted you as an English major?**

It has developed my skills to reach out and network with people who have similar interests and skills. I study, learn, eat, live, play, and adventure with these people. An honor society puts you with a group of like-minded people, with the added bonus that all the people in the club have set high expectations for themselves. We help each other plan and achieve our goals

**What do you plan on doing when you graduate?**

I am applying for graduate school to learn instructional design. It is a career that Doctor Donald Pharr and Doctor Keya Mukherjee got me interested in because it combines some of my favorite skills of communication, researching, writing and problem solving. Plus it is a job that is needed at multiple levels, from businesses to educational institutions, all over the world.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr Story

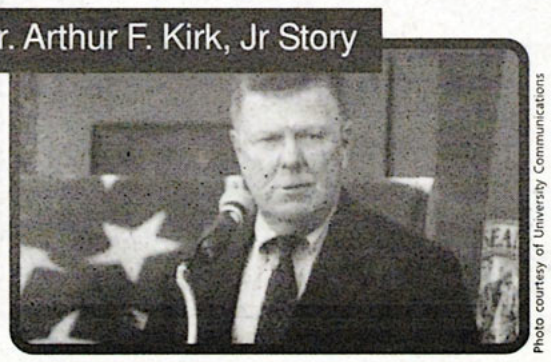


Photo courtesy of University Communications

Spring Sing 2015

Photo courtesy of University Communications

Dragon Ball: Xenoverse

Photo from twitter @BandaiNamcoUK

# Letter to the Editor

## Degree for Desi

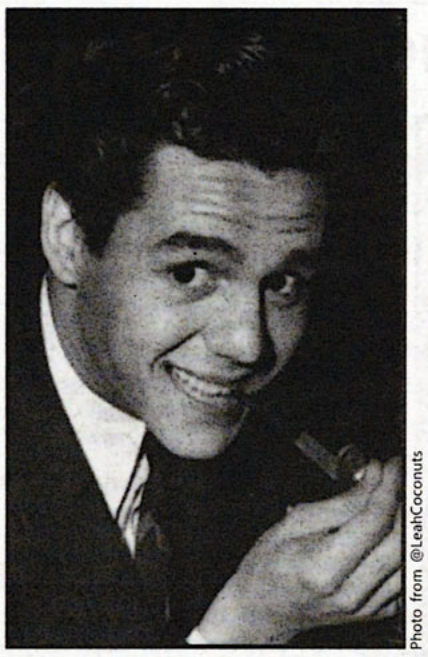


Photo from @LeahCoconuts

Desi Arnaz was born in Satagio, Cuba March 2, 1917 and died of lunger cancer on Demember 2, 1986.

Dear Saint Leo University faculty, members, students, and alumni:

Desi Arnaz should be awarded an honorary posthumous Master's Degree in Multimedia Management for his contribution to film, television, and popular culture. Mr. Arnaz was a unique and talented musician, as well as being an actor and visionary. His production company (co-owned and founded with his wife Lucille Ball) Desilu Productions was responsible for producing an array of groundbreaking television shows, many of which were the start of the very popular franchises we have today, including but not limited to: Mission Impossible, Star Trek, and The Untouchables. Desilu Productions was the first independent television production company.

Likewise, in use at Desilu, the production innovation of what is known as the multi-camera setup for filming television shows and movies, was implemented. This arrangement in production was ahead of its time, and rarely in use (if at all) at other production companies. The life of this Cuban-born American serves as an example and inspiration to other immigrants and Latin Americans. We believe that not only does Desi Arnaz deserve this tribute, but for Saint Leo (since he is listed as an alumnus) this will cause a national – and perhaps international – wave of notoriety. We believe with the right marketing as well as advertising our idea will be far reaching.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marilyn De La Cruz and Ariel Guy

In the fall of last year, we submitted the above proposal to then university president Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr. The proposal called for recognition of Desi Arnaz as an innovative entrepreneur and creative. We felt it necessary to publish in this respected paper, a copy of that proposal along with this letter – as a testament to a Cuban immigrant who not only attended Saint Leo University (albeit a short time), but also someone who went on to leave a lasting legacy to the film and television industries – as well as the hearts of Americans everywhere.

Information not included in the proposal is that Desilu struck a deal with CBS in which Desilu Productions owned the equipment for filming *I Love Lucy*, and would then rent back the equipment to the studio (CBS) for each episode. This later became standard practice within the television industry*. Also, Desilu Productions is responsible for the lasting legacy of the invention of the rerun. The following is an excerpt from the novel *Dreamers and Deceivers*:

"Speaking at the Goldman Sachs Communacopia Conference in New York**, CBS Television president Leslie Moonves reflected back on the all but unbelievable success of one of its most beloved sitcoms. He stunned reporters by noting that even now, six decades after the show first aired, the Arnaz-Ball production was still a cash cow for the network.

By 2012, CBS, which had repurchased rights to I Love Lucy in 1994, was receiving $20 million a year in syndication revenue from the show. The sitcom was still being aired in seventy-seven countries around the world."

We hope this has been an illuminating insight. A true luminary once walked the grounds of our beloved university.

Sincerely,
Ariel M. Guy and Marilyn De La Cruz

*Information from Entrepeneur.com
**September 20th, 2012

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

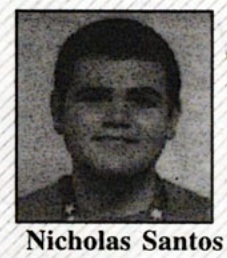
I Love Lucy aired October 1951 to April 1960 for a total of 6 seasons equally 181 episodes. I Love Lucy was one of the most popular comedy shows

**Correction: March 9, 2015 Issue**

*The Proposal was not in the March 9, 2015 issue with the Degree for Desi Letter to the Editor.*

## Contact Us

**Jessica Miller**
*Editor in Chief*



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## Letters To The Editor

- 500 words maximum
- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year
- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
- We reserve the right to edit for grammar/spelling/libel or publish
- Send submissions to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**

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# Local News

## Stretching your Buck at the Dollar Store

By Brianna Llewellyn
Contributing Writer

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

There are approximately 40,000 Dollar Stores in the United States according to Forbes.com

The summer is quickly approaching and more than anything college students need to save money. One way to save some extra cash is to consider going to the dollar store more often. Most people see stores like Walmart as the ultimate savings store. However, there are some things you can buy at the dollar store for more affordable prices. Also, although it may seem too good to be true, the dollar store accepts coupons! Here are a few tips that can be used to maximize your savings!

1.) Purchase reasonably priced beauty products at the dollar store. Products like nail polish, nail polish remover, and cotton swabs can easily be purchased at the dollar store for a fraction of the price a student would pay at Walmart.

2.) Let the dollar store become an organization oasis. Medium sized plastic storage bins stacked neatly on top of each other can be easily styled to make a dorm room neater. Then, use glass or plastic vases to store pens and pencils to give cluttered desk spaces a nice touch. Colorful waterproof baskets bought at the dollar store can be used to eliminate cramped storage spaces and make getting dressed in the morning a breeze by placing all personal effects on one side of the sink. Also, to save time when ironing clothes and avoid pesky wrinkles, buy a few clothes hanger sets to hang up your formal wear.

3.) The dollar store can make DIY Pinteresting more affordable than ever. Check the arts and crafts aisle for glitter, glue, markers, construction paper, or any other craft supply you may need. As a matter of fact, craft supplies at the dollar store are so inexpensive feel free to buy more than one for those class projects that require a little more creativity than usual.

4.) Purchase basic culinary essentials such as spatulas, basting spoons, grilling forks and other utensils at the dollar store with just as much quality as department store brands for a fraction of the cost. Although it may seem a little weird at first, do not shy away from purchasing food at the dollar store. Buy canned goods, salt, pepper, and any other seasonings from the dollar store to change up meal time for the better.

5.) Celebrate frugality by purchasing decorations at the dollar store. It is easy to create memories with friends with such a large selection of affordable party favors and holiday decorations.

6.) Get started on spring cleaning with home cleaning essentials from the dollar store. For most people when sharing dorms bleach is a necessity. Purchase bleach and detergents for washing clothes, bathrooms, and dishes at prices that could be considered a steal. Most dollar stores sell brooms and mops at much more affordable prices than a department store. It would be wise to also purchase a few brand name air freshener products at the dollar store as well. Lastly a few trash bags are always useful and since they are disposable after each use do not waste money on overpriced bags at department stores.

7.) Some dollar stores also have great deals on health products. For example, items such as hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, and antiseptic creams all contain the same active ingredients as brand name products sold at some pharmacies but are sold for less at the dollar store.

8.) Get a head start on moving. The dollar store sells a range of different types of tapes. Use tape to seal and label moving boxes to make your transition from campus to off campus locations less stressful over the summer.

The dollar store is home to a variety of brand name products at discounted prices. However, there are few things that are not worth purchasing at the dollar store such as electronic appliances unless the item is only needed as a replacement for a short period of time. In order to maintain affordable prices stores like the dollar tree consider all sales final unless the item is unopened with a receipt. So as to return policies be sure to ask if refunds are available in case one is needed in the future.

Most people do not know, but many dollar stores also accept coupons. So, for extra savings browse the web and check the weekly newspapers for coupons and discounts. Some good sites for coupons include coupons.com, smartsource.com, and of course the dollar store's website.

**JOIN THE PRIDE**

*Like writing? Editing? Photography? Design?*

Gain practical experience that can be applied to any profession you choose.

*Work Study & Non-Work Study Positions Available

*JOBS AVAILABLE*
- Writers
- Assistant Online Editor
- Multimedia Editor
- Assistant Copy Editor
- Photographers
- Assistant Layout Editor
- Graphic Designer

*SKILLS GAINED*
- Resume Builder
- Teamwork
- Improved Writing
- Ability to Meet Deadlines
- Problem Solving
- Project Management
- Time Management

For job inquiries and more information contact Valerie Kasper at valerie.kasper@saintleo.edu

/LionsPrideNews @LionsPrideNews

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Sean Jones
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# Graduates of 2015

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Mary Klein
Sarah Klein
Harrison Klerk
Christopher Kluender
Vedrana Kocovic
Tareq Kordi
William Koufas
Everett Kozlowski
Jacqueline Krause
Brent Krauss
Andrea Kuhl
Anthony Laguardia
Michael Laguardia
Barbara Lamerton
Rebecca Lang
Nicholas Lanier
Austin Lannon
Lisa Larson
Elijah Lasater
James Le Compte
Paul Leek
Jesse Leeman
Joshua Legg
Wendy Legorete
Suzanne Lehman
Amanda Leon
Andrew Lewallen
Kinnara Lewis
Derek Llovet
Jessica LoBianco
McClellan Lowry
Allison Luttrell
Katie Lyzenga-Trippiedi
Lindsay MacGregor
Joanne Majerczyk
Amanda Mallory
Brandon Maloney
Eric Malta
Tara Mansur
Ryan Marshall
Heather Martin
Michael Mastracchio
Zoe Mathieu
Mandy Matthews
Cody Mauch
Delanie McCabe
Kasey McDearis
Anna McEntee
Katy McGee
Julianne McNamee
Sara McPherson
Shaina McSweeney
Katherine Medina
Tanya Menendez
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Jessica Miller
Tyrone Miller
Kaitlin Millner
Brittany Millsap
Roxanne Milne
Christina Minneci
Tara Moilanen
Hattan Mokhlis
Valerie Moncayo
Gabriella Montemarano
Paula Montoya
Bryan Morales
Miranda Morey
Berta Morillo
Ayaka Morita
Sean Morris
Ahmad Mousa
Andrew Mulligan
Brandon Mumaw
Danni Murphy
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Alexandra Murray
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Abrar Nooh
Muwaffk Nooh
Meschell Novak
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Tyler Nowotny
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Ruslan Olikhver
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Matthew Oswald
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Samantha Page
Kevin Papac
Jodecia Parkins
Kayleigh Pedersen
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John Pelkey
Anthony Pellegrino
Carlos Perez
Destinee Perez
Nicholas Perez
Jonathan Perrone
Lauren Petty
Noel Quiles
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Brittany Raber
Charles Reeder
Rhet Rheinlander
Bredell Richardson
Dakota Rios
Jesse Robinson
Jesse Robinson
Hannah Rockhill
Andres Rodriguez
Jasmine Rodriguez
Antonio Roki
Michael Rosenzweig
Deirdre Rowan
Danielle Sanchez
Javier Sanchez
Adriana Sanders
Brittany Sands
Yaidimar Santiago
Faisal Sarhan
Mazuli Sassaman
Christopher Scharff
Daniel Scheerhorn
Taylor Schemehorn
Taylor Schemerhorn
Manuel Schoenhuber
Joseph Schuchmann
Alison Schucht
Alyssa Schuyler
Kelly Scott
Christopher Seabrook
Badr Shahub
Hatim Shami
Diana Shoemaker
Carl Shotwell
Kaleigh Shoupe
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Thomas Sikes
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John Slimak
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# Campus News

## A Year of Excellence

**By Nicole Alvarez and Craig Graves**
Staff Writer and Sports/ Health/Science Page Editor

On April 16, the students, faculty, and staff of Saint Leo University had the opportunity to leave work and classes early to celebrate their academic excellence in their respective fields of study. These showcases were stationed all around campus because the usual location of Crawford Hall was torn down and replaced by the New Academic Building.

Saint Edward's Hall featured both Honors and English presentations. The Daniel A. Canon Memorial Library housed the Psychology presentations and posters. Lewis Hall had presentations for Science and Mathematics with Music in Selby Auditorium. All other fields of study could be found in the Donald R. Tapia School of Business Building including Business, Political and Computer Sciences, Education, and Hospitality and Tourism.

The English presentations were readings of creative works and research papers ranging in topics from poetry about one's friends and enemies to Geoffrey Chaucer's farts and how they affect the meaning of literature. Down the hall were the Honors presentations in the form of posters, papers, and videos about health, safety, and religion. Along with these presentations, there were refreshments and a door prize raffle.

TECO Hall was brimming with poster boards about international languages and cultures from the various language classes offered at the University. International background music was also being played through the speaker system. The purpose of this presentation room was to educate the attendees about world cultures and languages that differ from American vernacular and culture. Some of the posters detailed the lives of famous cultural figures such as Celia Cruz and Guillermo Del Toro. Other posters showcased traditional music and dances like the salsa and bachata. Some even detailed the Russian Cyrillic Alphabet and various international sports like football.

Lewis Hall's scientific presentations were filled with research concerning different biological and chemistry systems. There were several presentations concerning red mangroves and albinism. While others studied the spread of diseases and health risks of recreational chemicals. The extensive research conducted by the presenters had made each of the projects incredibly in-depth. In contrast to the scientific ventures, Selby Auditorium was the venue for several musical performances.

These performances consisted of a few instrumental groups and several singers, as well as singing groups. The musical performances varied from genres such as easy listening to opera and pop. Also, the Saint Leo Singers did a rendition of Phil Collins' "You Will be in My Heart" from the Disney movie *Tarzan*. The artistic endeavors were continued in the Fine Arts Building with the student art and photography gallery.

Following the conclusion of these academic presentations, an awards ceremony was held in the Student Community Center Boardrooms with a reception on the Dempsey Plaza. The awards were handed out to individual presenters for each of their respective fields and then a cumulative award was given to one person in each department of study. Overall, the many academic displays around campus were well done, informative, and successfully showed off the University's core value of excellence.

## Upcoming Local Attractions

*Buy tickets now! They are Going Quickly!*

Flogging Molly Concert
Date: 5/6/2015
Location: Janus Landing Courtyard
Contact: 727-565-0550
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Price: Starting at $49
Description:
Rock Folk Group Flogging Molly is known for their stage presence and music inspired by Irish Culture.

American Stage in the Park: In The Heights
Date: 4/22/15-5/17/15
Location: Demens Landing
Contact: 727-823-7529
Time: 8:00 P.M.
Price: Starting at $13

Fiddler on the Roof
Date: 4/17/15-4/25/15
Location: TECO Theatre at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts
Contact: 813-229-7827
Time: Multiple, See Website

**CONGRATULATIONS,**
**Education Major Graduates!!!**

| | |
|---|---|
| Kimberly Smith | Jennifer Clark |
| Victoria Gates | Christina Hellwig |
| Lacey Triplett | Kasey McDearis |
| Issys Salazar | Danielle Sanchez |
| Lisa Larson | Theresa Santiago |
| Rachel Olliff | Tanika Flemming |
| Michelle Bromm | Christiana Torres |
| Tiffanie Hughes | Sophia Giovenco |
| Casey Cook | Nicole Wamback |
| Jessa Albert | Caitlin Cusick |
| Dakota Rios | Noelle Bertossi |
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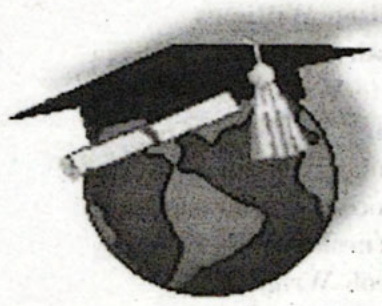

**Changing the world one student at a time!**

For someone who couldn't keep a job selling ice cream to children, you've come a very long way.
Congratulations, Jessica!

—Donald Pharr

Photo courtesy of Jo-Ann Johnston

# Arts & Entertainment

## Marvel's Daredevil: The Devil is in the Details

**By Matt Vandenburgh**
Contributing Writer

Of all the senses, sight is the one people rely on the most. Try crossing a street, driving to work or studying for finals while being blind. It is very difficult, if not impossible. Now try fighting crime blind.

Marvel Comics, the Disney-owned comic book company, is expanding the Marvel Cinematic Universe. They agreed to produce four shows for Netflix, which will all take place inside the current world that features movie heroes such as Iron Man and Captain America. The first show of the bunch, "Daredevil," was released on Apr. 10.

The events of "Daredevil" begin after the "Battle of New York" scene featured in the first Avengers movie. The story centers on main character Matt Murdock, a blind lawyer in the rough and tumble village in New York City known as Hell's Kitchen. While Murdock (Charlie Cox), acts as a humble defense attorney by day, by night he is a masked vigilante, fighting criminals that kidnap women and distribute drugs throughout the city.

Meanwhile, a shadowy businessman by the name of Wilson Fisk (Vincent D'Onofrio) is looking to gain power and influence in order to change Hell's Kitchen into what he believes it should be. Morally corrupt and physically imposing, Fisk is not afraid to get his hands dirty if the need arises, although he often chooses to let other people do the dirty work for him.

Murdock and Fisk are perfect foils for each other. By giving the viewers insight into the inner thoughts of both characters, this show does a good job displaying both the similarities and differences of each character.

Another aspect of the show that Netflix and Marvel do well is the amazing attention to detail. Murdock, a Catholic, is tormented by his actions and frequently seeks guidance from the priest at his local church. Fisk is haunted by his past and constantly aims to justify his actions as both for profit and the greater good.

The choreography for the fight scenes is excellent. One fight segment in particular was completed in one shot, something both unheard of in the business as well as amazing. Again, the attention to detail shown by this shines through, and the audience greatly appreciates it.

However, there is one major flaw with this show. "Daredevil" seems to attempt to copy from other popular superhero movies and shows such as the Christopher Nolan "Batman" trilogy, as well as the popular DC Comics show "Arrow." Like both of these, Daredevil takes to the streets, eliminating villains from the shadows and this show uses similar camera angles as "Arrow" and the "Batman" movies. One scene specifically has this problem, where Murdock takes down goons one by one, in a fashion that is so similar to a scene from the movie "Batman Begins" that it should have been called out for plagiarism.

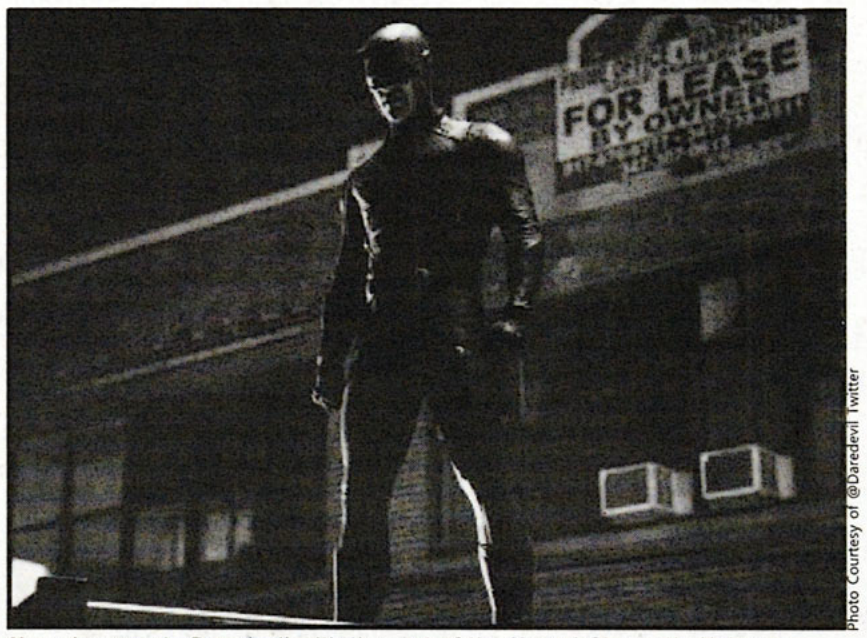

Photo Courtesy of @Daredevil Twitter

Marvel connects Daredevil with the rest of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) in a few interesting ways. Matt Murdock's father, for example, boxes against Carl "Crusher" Creel, a villain in the television show Agents of SHIELD.

Another issue with the show is that it is not for squeamish fans. The show is not similar to the Marvel movies or the "Agents of SHIELD" television show. This show is far gorier with violent decapitations, impalements, and copious amounts of blood.

Overall though, "Daredevil" is excellent. This is the first of four Marvel shows for Netflix, centering on the "street level" heroes, meaning heroes that take on the mob and other criminals that are not worthy of fighting Iron Man, Thor, or other more powerful heroes. The plan is for these shows to culminate in a big Avengers style mash up, and if "Daredevil" is any indicator fans are going to enjoy it.


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# Sports

## Jameis Winston: Why Character Matters

**By Cheryl Nance**
Special to The Lions' Pride

Jameis Winston has garnered national media attention, which is exactly what a person wants if he's a star college football quarterback who's looking to go pro. But in Winston's case, the press isn't all good. The Florida State University quarterback has been in trouble for shoplifting, shouting vulgarities from a table top in the student union, and participating in a BB gun fight. But those are all petty issues compared to what he was accused of in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 2012.

Erica Kinsman, who has identified herself publicly, says she believes something was slipped into her drink at a local bar causing her to become woozy and disoriented. The next thing she remembers is being in a taxi with three unknown men and then being raped by one of them in an off-campus apartment. She would later confirm her attacker was Jameis Winston. For his part, Winston says the sex was consensual. He even has two eyewitnesses, who are both his friends and teammates, to corroborate his story. On Kinsman's side is another student who had a sexual encounter with Winston. A victim advocate with FSU says although that student's story doesn't portray a crime, it does shed light on Winston's questionable character and what may be a recurring problem.

Due to a very botched investigation, the truth may never be fully known. Officer Scott Argulo of the Tallahassee police department failed to follow through on leads supplied by the victim that would have quickly identified her attacker and recovered valuable evidence. Florida State University is also at fault here. Under federal law a school is required to promptly investigate any sexual assault accusations, but they didn't look into the matter until after the football season ended. Because of these shortcomings, the local prosecutor said there was not enough evidence to charge Winston. And now that he's declared himself eligible for the draft, Winston is no longer FSU's problem. He could however, become Tampa's.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have the first pick of the draft scheduled on April 30, 2015. The team is desperately in need of a quarterback, and Winston is believed by many to be the number one choice. No one is questioning Winston's athletic ability. In his last season at FSU, the Heisman trophy winner won 26 consecutive games before losing in the semifinal playoffs. He has proven himself on the field. It is his actions off the field that are being questioned.

That is the larger debate right now. Does character matter? A quick look at the problems just within the last year in the National Football League tells you it should. Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson, Ray McDonald, and Greg Hardy are all professional players that have been charged with violent crimes. In the case of Hardy and MacDonald, their teams released them because of their behavior, but new teams signed them only a few months later. Rice, who was indicted for punching his girlfriend in the face and knocking her unconscious, was terminated from the Ravens and suspended from the NFL. But he won his appeal and is now a free agent hoping to be picked up this year.

Besides the bad press, these players are costly to their teams through loss of endorsements and salaries paid while on suspension. The NFL is a business after all, and while only some teams seem concerned about ethics, you can bet all of them are watching their money. The behavior of players eligible for the draft this year is being closely scrutinized. It was reported that Winston was even secretly followed on flights in order to observe him unaware. From all accounts, it appears he is conducting himself in a professional manner. According to ESPN, former Bucs coach Jon Gruden "believes Winston has learned from past off-field incidents and is ready to be the face of a franchise."

As for his accuser, Kinsman firmly stands behind her story. She appears in a recently released documentary, *The Hunting Ground*, which is about the prevalence of sexual assaults on college campuses and how little is done about them. Filmmakers Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering expose how universities across the country tend to blame the victims and the ridiculous punishments meted out to the few who are found guilty of rape. Penances have included being made to write a book report and creating a poster which lists ten ways to approach a girl. The documentary was inspired by a multitude of students writing and speaking to them about their similar experiences after viewing the duo's previous film *The Invisible War*, which is about sexual assault in the military. Both films have sparked movements to take the investigations of rape out of the hands of those in charge and put under control of a separate, unbiased organization.

Laws are also in the process of being changed. In April 2014 the White House pressed upon colleges and universities to do more to prevent sexual assaults. Later this year a new federal law called the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act will be in effect. It will require schools to annually report incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. New standards will also be in place for hearings and disciplinary procedures, and more education will be provided for prevention and awareness.

While all of this is a step in the right direction, it doesn't answer the immediate question about whether the Buccaneers should draft Jameis Winston. With the recent string of troubled players finding a home with another team, it seems likely if the Bucs don't take Winston someone else will. As outstanding as it would be for the NFL to make an example out of Winston and refuse to hire him, the truth is he was never even formally charged with rape. But that doesn't mean the Bucs should take him and hope for the best. As a respected business in this town, the team should take a stand against bringing suspect characters into our community. Players are looked at as role models by our youth, who should not be emulating someone with Winston's reputation. Rather they should be taught that behavior like his won't be tolerated. It may be the only way to break the sense of entitlement and protection these athletes seem to learn somewhere along the way to the big leagues.

Photos from Twitter @Melinas Photos

**Since Nov. 25, 2012, Jameis Winston has been accused of eight different crimes including alledgedly shooting squirrels with a pellet gun, alledgedly stealing crab legs from a supermarket, and alledgedly raping a young woman.**